

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

In the Matter of the Search of

A United States Postal Service Express Mail Parcel bearing confirmation # EI024842561US (the SUBJECT PARCEL). The SUBJECT PARCEL is a 12 1/2" x 9 1/2" x 1 1/2" cardboard envelope that weighs 1 lb 4 ounces. The parcel bears a handwritten label addressed to "Erin Lang, 7488 Bridgit Dr #5, Rohnert Park, CA 94928" with a return address of "Reed Bennett Designs, 2036 N. Prospect #306, MKE, WI 53202." The SUBJECT PARCEL was postmarked on June 10, 2013 at Milwaukee, WI 53203.

Case Number: 13-m-233

APPLICATION & AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT

I, Daniel J. Kakonis, a federal law enforcement officer, request a search warrant and state under penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that on the following person or property:

A United States Postal Service Express Mail Parcel bearing confirmation # EI024842561US (the SUBJECT PARCEL). The SUBJECT PARCEL is a 12 1/2" x 9 1/2" x 1 1/2" cardboard envelope that weighs 1 lb 4 ounces. The parcel bears a handwritten label addressed to "Erin Lang, 7488 Bridgit Dr #5, Rohnert Park, CA 94928" with a return address of "Reed Bennett Designs, 2036 N. Prospect #306, MKE, WI 53202." The SUBJECT PARCEL was postmarked on June 10, 2013 at Milwaukee, WI 53203

located in the Eastern District of Wisconsin there is now concealed: **Please see attached affidavit, which is hereby incorporated by reference.**

The basis for the search warrant under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(c) is which is (check one or more):

- ☒ evidence of a crime;
- ☒ contraband, fruits of a crime, or other items illegally possessed;
- ☐ property designed for use, intended for use, or used in committing a crime;
- ☐ a person to be arrested or a person who is unlawfully restrained.

The search is related to a violation of:

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 843(b).

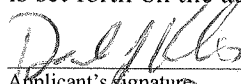
The application is based on these facts:

- ☒ Continued on the attached sheet, which is incorporated by reference.
 - ☐ Delayed notice of ____ days (give exact ending date if more than 30 days: _____)
- is requested under 18 U.S.C. § 3103a, the basis of which is set forth on the attached sheet.

Sworn to before me, and signed in my presence.

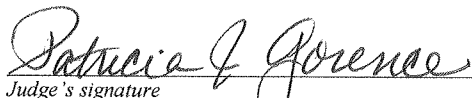
Date June 11th 2013

City and state: Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Applicant's signature

Name and Title: Daniel J. Kakonis, Postal Inspector



Judge's signature

THE HONORABLE PATRICIA J. GORENCE

United States Magistrate Judge

Name & Title of Judicial Officer

AFFIDAVIT

I, Daniel J. Kakonis, being duly sworn on oath, state as follows:

1. I am a United States Postal Inspector currently assigned to the Milwaukee Field Office of the United State Postal Inspection Service. I have been employed as a Postal Inspector for over 25 years. My primary duties include investigating the transportation of controlled substances or proceeds/payments through the United States Postal Service (USPS). As a Postal Inspector, I have been involved in hundreds of investigations of narcotics trafficking through the United States mail. Based upon my experiences as a federal law enforcement officer, I know that the United States mails are used to deliver controlled substances and payment/proceeds thereof.

2. The information contained in this affidavit is either the result of personal observations and investigation, the review of law enforcement files or records, postal records, or has been relayed to me by other law enforcement agents or citizen witnesses, all of whom I believe to be reliable.

PURPOSE OF AFFIDAVIT

3. This affidavit is made in support of a search warrant for the SUBJECT PARCEL described below in paragraph 4, for items which constitute the fruits, instrumentalities, and evidence of violations of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 (a)(1) (Distribution and Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance) and 843 (b) (Unlawful Use of a Communication Facility (including the mails) to Facilitate the Distribution of a Controlled Substance.)

PARCEL TO BE SEARCH

4. This affidavit is made in support of an application for a search warrant for United States Postal Service Express Mail Parcel # EI024842561US (the SUBJECT PARCEL). The

SUBJECT PARCEL is a 12 1/2" x 9 1/2" x 1 1/2" cardboard envelope that weighs 1 lb 4 ounces. The parcel bears a handwritten label addressed to "Erin Lang, 7488 Bridgit Dr #5, Rohnert Park, CA 94928" with a return address of "Reed Bennett Designs, 2036 N. Prospect #306, MKE, WI 53202." The SUBJECT PARCEL was postmarked on June 10, 2013 at Milwaukee, WI 53203.

ITEMS TO BE SEIZED

5. The following are items to be seized from the SUBJECT PARCEL, which constitutes the fruits, instrumentalities, and evidence of violations of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 (a)(1) (Distribution and Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance) and 843 (b) (Unlawful Use of a Communication Facility, including the mails, to Facilitate the Distribution of a Controlled Substance):

- a. Any controlled substance; and
- b. Currency, money orders, bank checks, or similar monetary instruments in quantities over \$100.

INVESTIGATION OF THE SUBJECT PARCEL

6. I review express mail labels delivered to, and sent from, the Milwaukee area to/from source narcotic areas. I do this because I know based on my training and experience that drug traffickers will sometimes use express mail service, which is the USPS overnight/next day delivery product. Drug traffickers use the express mail delivery services because of their speed, reliability, and the ability to track the article's progress to the intended delivery point.

7. I am aware that California is a source area for controlled substances. As such, controlled substances are frequently transported from California via the USPS, and the proceeds from the sale of the controlled substances are frequently returned to California via the USPS. These proceeds are generally in large amounts of money, over \$100.

8. I know from my experience and training that drug traffickers often use fictitious or incomplete names and/or addresses in an effort to conceal their identity from law enforcement officers when mailing narcotics and proceeds of narcotic trafficking. I researched Accurint, which is a public information database utilized by law enforcement that provides names, addresses, telephone numbers and other identifying information. Accurint shows no one with the last name of Bennett associated with any apartment at 2036 N. Prospect, Milwaukee, WI. I researched Google, a commonly used internet search engine and found no information on a business name of Reed Bennett Designs. Erin Lang is associated with 7488 Bridgit Dr #5, Rohnert Park, CA 94928, per Accurint.

9. In my review of previously delivered express mail labels I have identified four prior mailings related to the SUBJECT PARCEL. The following is a list of the Express Label mailings associated with the certain aspects of addresses on the SUBJECT PARCEL

- a. On March 15, 2013, a 1 lb 11 oz. Express Mail package bearing confirmation number EI798215475US was mailed from Milwaukee, WI 53203 and addressed to "Erin Lang, 7488 Bridgit Dr #5, Rohnert Park, CA 94928." This package bore a return address of "Reed Bennett, 1830 N. Hubbard #402, MKE, WI." Accurint showed the name Bennett is not currently associated with any apartment at 1830 N. Hubbard. A Janel Bennett was associated at 1830 N. Hubbard in 2008, but not at apartment 402.
- b. On March 18, 2013, a 1 lb 5 oz. Express Mail package bearing confirmation number EI900831325US was mailed from Milwaukee, WI 53217 and addressed to "Erin Lang, 7488 Bridgit Dr #5, Rohnert Park, CA 94928." This package bore a return address of "Sharon Williamson, 1918 Lafayette St. #1302, MKE, WI 53202." Accurint showed the name Williamson is not associated with any apartment at 1918 Lafayette St.
- c. On March 27, 2013, a 1 lb Express Mail package bearing confirmation number EI798216440US was mailed from Milwaukee, WI 53203 and addressed to "Erin Lang, 7488 Bridgit Dr #5, Rohnert Park, CA 94928." This package bore a return address of "Reed Bennett, 1918 Lafayette St. #1302, MKE, WI 53202." Accurint showed the name Bennett is not associated with any apartment at 1918 Lafayette St.
- d. On May 6, 2013, a 1 lb 14 oz. Express Mail package bearing confirmation number EI798211005US was mailed from Milwaukee, WI 53203 and addressed to "Erin Lang, 7488 Bridgit Dr #5, Rohnert Park, CA 94928." This package bore

a return address of "Carol Lang, 1918 Lafayette St. #701, MKE, WI 53202." Accurant showed the name Lang is not associated with any apartment at 1918 Lafayette St.

10. The handwriting on the four prior mailings and the SUBJECT PARCEL appears to be written by the same individual, even though the return addresses indicate the mailers were different people with different addresses. The use of the "MKE" abbreviation for Milwaukee was also used in each of the mailings.

11. On June 10, 2013, Inspector Kakonis saw the SUBJECT PARCEL while reviewing outgoing Express Mail packages at the Milwaukee Post Office. Inspector Kakonis picked up the SUBJECT PARCEL and made arrangements to bring a narcotics detecting canine from the Milwaukee Police Department to the Milwaukee Postal Inspection Service Office. On June 11, 2013, I met with Milwaukee Police Detective Eugene S. Nagler and his canine "Duke", who are trained and certified in the detection of dangerous drugs by the North American Police Work Dog Association. Detective Nagler and Duke were originally certified on June 25, 2004 and are recertified annually, with a recent recertification on June 6, 2013. The controlled substances they are certified in detecting include marijuana, heroin, meth and cocaine. Detective Nagler stated Duke has alerted, over 600 times including training, to the presence of controlled substances he is trained to detect. Duke alerts have been the basis for more than 200 search warrants, and more than 200 searches of motor vehicles. In addition, according to Inspection Service records Duke has successfully alerted to controlled substances on US Mail parcels and letters on 123 of 124 occasions since February of 2008. Detective Nagler informed me that Duke's alert indicates the presence of controlled substances or other items, such as proceeds of controlled substances, which have been recently contaminated with, or associated with, the odor of one or more controlled substances.

12. On June 11, 2013, I placed the SUBJECT PARCEL on the floor in the Milwaukee Post Office with five other similar parcels. Duke alerted on the parcel addressed to “Erin Lang, 7488 Bridgit Dr #5, Rohnert Park, CA 94928,” described in paragraph 5 above, by scratching and biting at it. Detective Nagler advised these actions are consistent with Duke detecting the odor of controlled substances. Duke did not alert on any of the other five parcels.

13. I believe that based upon the evidence described above, there is probable cause to indicate that the contents of the SUBJECT PARCEL, addressed to “Erin Lang, 7488 Bridgit Dr #5, Rohnert Park, CA 94928,” is drug related, and thus constitutes the fruits, instrumentalities, and evidence of violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 (a)(1) (Distribution and Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance) and 843 (b) (Unlawful Use of a Communication Facility, including the mails, to Facilitate the Distribution of a Controlled Substance).

14. I have not included in this affidavit each and every fact known to me regarding this investigation, but only those relating to determining whether there is probable cause to search the SUBJECT PARCEL.